

TRR

03/26/2005

CLMPTO

10/086,205

1. (currently amended) In a telecommunications network, a method for providing a network-based notification service to a calling party during processing of a telephone call of a the calling party to a called party, comprising the steps of:
 - storing in a database in the telecommunications network calling plan information for subscribers including calling plan information associated with the originating address of the calling party;
 - receiving a request for a communications connection from an originating address of the calling party to a terminating address of the called party;
 - verifying that the originating address of the calling party is to receive the notification service for the received request;
 - retrieving the stored calling plan information for associated with the originating address of the calling party;
 - determining a minimum cost period which is at least one of a time of day, a day of a week, and a plurality of days for completing the communications connection based on the calling plan information for the originating address; and
 - while the communications connection is being established within the telecommunications network and before completing the connection of the calling party to the called party, transmitting from the telecommunications network to the calling party an audible notification message including the minimum cost period to the calling party from the telecommunications network;
 - prompting the calling party to abandon the telephone call after transmitting the minimum cost period;
 - completing the connection of the calling party to the called party if the telephone call is not abandoned by the calling party; and
 - deactivating the transmission of the notification message after receiving a deactivation request.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of prompting the calling party for transfer to a customer service center.

3~~5~~. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting further comprises the step of displaying the notification message on a display screen.

4~~7~~. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying the minimum cost period on a web page.

5~~9~~. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of deactivating the transmission of the notification message after a predetermined period of time.

6~~10~~. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a plurality of minimum cost periods to the calling party, after the calling party has made a plurality of telephone calls.

7~~13~~. (currently amended) A method within a telecommunication network of providing a service for notifying a calling party of a minimum cost period for completing

a telephone call, wherein the minimum cost period is at least one of a time of day, a day of week, and a plurality of sequential days, comprising the steps of:

storing in a database in the telecommunications network billing rate data associated with the network address of the calling party;

receiving a network address corresponding to a telecommunications device that initiated the telephone call;

verifying that the network address of the telecommunications device is to be notified of the minimum cost period;

receiving billing rate data for the network address from the network database;

determining the minimum cost period for completing the telephone call based on the billing rate data for the network address during set-up of the telephone call; and

notifying the calling party of the minimum cost period by audibly announcing the minimum cost period and the ability to terminate the call prior to completing set-up of the telephone call; and

deactivating the step of notifying the party after receiving a deactivation request.

⁸₁₄. (original) The method of claim ⁷₁₃, further comprising the step of prompting the calling party for transfer to a customer service center.

⁹₁₇. (original) The method of claim ⁷₁₃, wherein the step of notifying further comprises the step of displaying the minimum cost period on a display screen.

¹⁰₁₉. (original) The method of claim ⁷₁₃, further comprising the step of displaying the minimum cost period on a web page.